AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section on page 1, lines 5-9 of the present specification with the following amended paragraph.

The present application is a continuation-in-part of abandoned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/345,121 (GP-302361), filed Jan. 5, 2003. This application is also related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/628,318 (GMC 0047 PA), Ser. No. 10/628,316 (GMC 0048 PA), and Ser. No. 10/628,856, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,967,039 (GMC 0051 PA), filed Jul. 28, 2003.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 11-19 of the present specification with the following amended paragraph.

Referring ~~collectively~~ to FIG. 2~~FIGS. 2 and 4~~, the water transfer particles 24 are distributed across a cross section of the porous diffusion media 20 between the first and second major faces 21, 23 of the diffusion media and alternate across the first and second major faces 21, 23. For illustrative purposes, and not by way of limitation, it is noted that according to one embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 4, the alternating high and low density regions 26, 28 are characterized by a periodicity of about 0.5 cm. Of course, the periodicity and relative sizes of the high and low density regions 26, 28 depend largely upon the design requirements associated with the particular application in which the porous diffusion media 20 is to be utilized.